

PATENT <

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Rod Miller et al.

: Art Unit: 3761

Serial No.:

10/087,579

: Examiner:

Filed:

February 28, 2002

For:

DEVICE AND METHOD FOR

SAMPLE COLLECTION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 are not required to be provided, because they were cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. 09/296,075, filed April 21, 1999, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of the first Official Action. No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. No fee or statement is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: USPTO Form 1449

Dated: March 27, 2003

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

March 27, 2003

Lisa R. Bennett